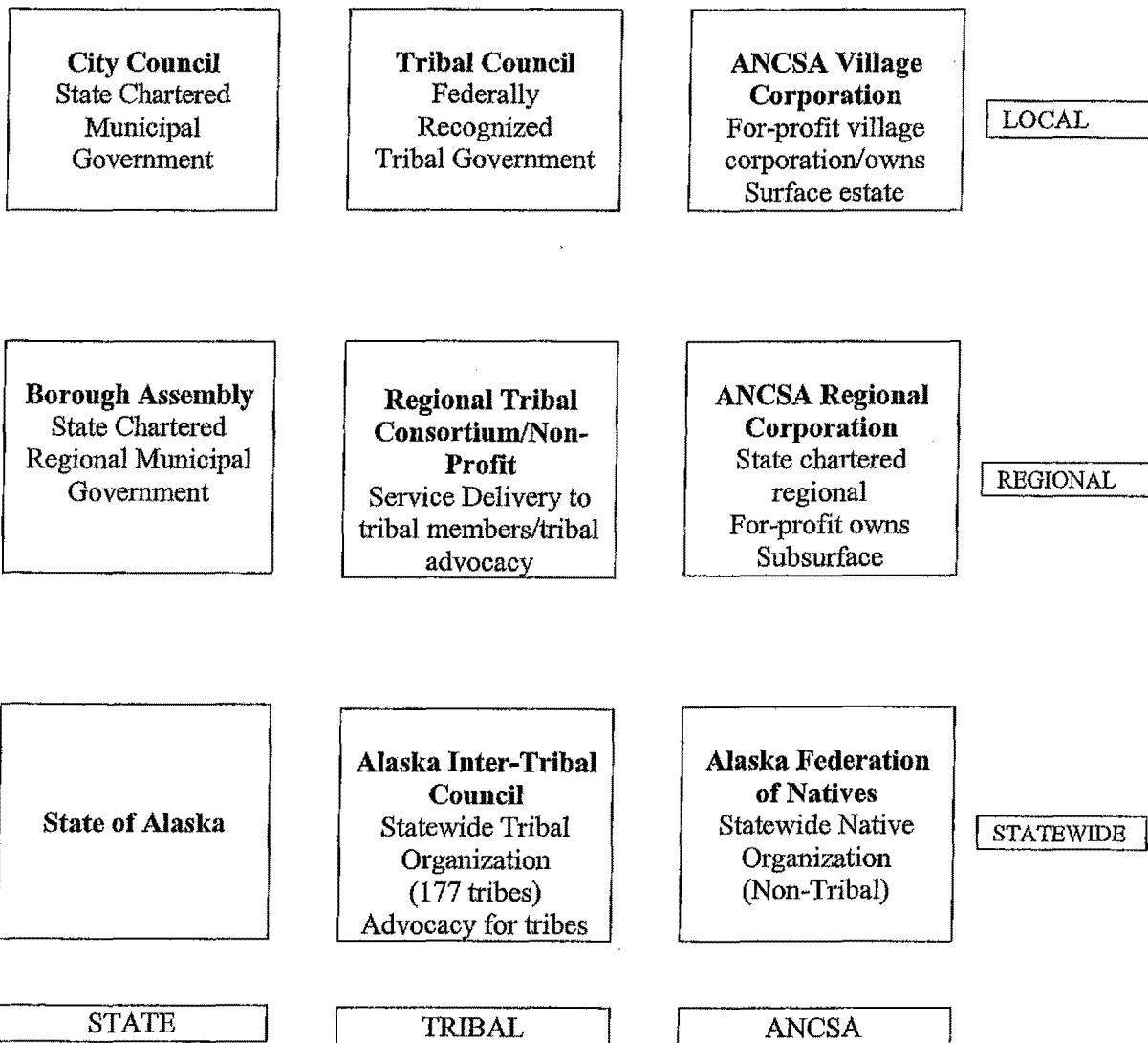


ALASKA NATIVE GOVERNMENTS/ORGANIZATIONS



Institutions and Governments

A multitude of business, government and social services institutions serve Native communities in Alaska.

Native Corporations

Under the terms of ANCSA, the regional and village corporations were established for profit-making purposes. Although many of the regional corporations conduct programs to benefit shareholders and their families, the corporations are generally prohibited from providing health, welfare, education or other social and political services.

Native Non-Profit Associations

Many other associations organized before ANCSA incorporated as non-profits to address the needs of Natives within their region. Non-profit corporations have been formed in all 12 regions to contract for health, housing, education and other social service programs. Funding sources include state and federal program contracts and grants from various public and private entities. In some regions, there are separate housing authorities and health corporations.

Governments

Boroughs – These are municipal corporations, regional in nature and similar to counties in other states. A borough may include incorporated and unincorporated cities within its boundaries. Mandatory borough powers include education, planning and platting, and taxation. There are currently 14 boroughs in Alaska.

Unorganized Boroughs – These areas are not incorporated as a municipal government. The Alaska State Legislature serves as the assembly to the unorganized boroughs.

Rural Education Attendance Area (REAA) – A regional service area established under state law to deliver education services in unorganized boroughs. There are currently 19 REAAs.

Cities – There are two classes of city government, distinguished by the type of public services they provide. There are currently 148 city governments in Alaska.

Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) Councils – Villages organized as federal corporations under the terms of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, as amended. They provide services similar to local city governments. There are currently 20 villages with a recognized IRA Council.

Traditional Councils – Traditional councils serve as the local governing body in areas of Alaska where there is no recognized state or federally chartered local government.

Reservation – Alaska has one recognized Indian reservation, Annette Island, located in southeast Alaska.

Alaska Native Institutions and Organizations Significant to Alaska Native Peoples

Alaska Native Brotherhood/Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANB/ANS)

The ANB and the ANS are statewide organizations that help Alaska Natives work for the betterment of their people. Members are from diverse Tribes, clans and value systems. The ANB and ANS conduct community business through local offices called camps. These camps converge annually for what is referred to as Grand Camp Convention. There, area-wide policies and positions are developed. The ANB/ANS claim to be the oldest Tribal, political and fraternal organization existing in the United States. Among its achievements are gaining citizenship, the right to vote, and public education for Native Alaskans and Native Americans in Alaska, help in founding of the Tlingit and Haida Central Council, the organization of many tribal I.R.A. councils statewide and, to some extent, the organization of regional and Village Corporations formed under the ANCSA.

Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN)

The AFN is a statewide political organization of Alaska Natives who are sometimes seen as representing corporate more than tribal concerns. This confusion arises because AFN dues are paid by communities, and some communities allow a corporation or corporations to pay their dues for them. The predominant membership is from the areas north of the panhandle with some members from Southeast Alaska.

Alaska Inter-Tribal Council (AITC)

This is a statewide consortium of tribal governments that advocates, defends, and enhances the rights of Tribal governments to perpetuate cultural, spiritual, and traditional life-styles. There are few members from Southeast Alaska. This is not a Tribal government and government-to-government relations are not required. The relationship with entities like this one is at the discretion of the appropriate line officer.

ANCSA Corporations

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 awarded Alaska Natives \$962.5 million and 44 million acres in settlement of aboriginal claims. Twelve for-profit Regional Corporations and 220 for-profit Urban and Village Corporations were created to manage the settlement land and money. The corporations were given the task of using the money and land way produce economic and social benefits for individual shareholders. This act represents the largest settlement of aboriginal lands claims in history and is unprecedented in the history of the federal government. It made Alaska Natives the largest private landowners on earth.

Regional ANCSA Corporations

Under ANCSA, the State of Alaska was divided into 12 geographic regions. As directed by the Secretary of the Interior, these regions were composed of Natives having a common interests. Each of these regions was to incorporate under the laws of the state of Alaska to conduct business for profit. Management of these Regional Corporations is vested in a board of directors made up of shareholders.

A 13th regional corporation was later formed and located in Seattle, WA. That corporation is made up of at-large shareholders elsewhere.

ANCSA Village or Urban Corporations

These are corporations formed under state law and should not be confused with Tribal Councils. Their mission is to produce a profit for the shareholders and not to govern Tribal members.

Each Native village entitled to receive lands and benefits under ANCSA was required to organize as a "for-profit" or "nonprofit" business under the laws of the State of Alaska. There were 220 Village Corporations formed under this act.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 was passed to accomplish a fair and just settlement of all claims by Natives and Native groups of Alaska, based on aboriginal lands claims. This act also called for the incorporation of for-profit Regional.

Corporations and for-profit or nonprofit Village Corporations under State of Alaska laws. These corporations were incorporated for business purposes and became the vehicles through which fee simple patents totaling 44 million acres was conveyed. The Regional Corporations own subsurface rights of all village corporation lands. Village, Urban and Regional Corporations own all surface rights to their lands and are guaranteed access under ANCSA.

These corporations did not replace Tribal governments in Alaska. The Federally Recognized Tribes in Alaska have governments that are traditional or have been formed under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, (amended in 1936 to include Alaska Natives). These Tribes and the federal government have a unique, government-to-government relationship.

City Councils

These are state organized local governments. Sometimes they exist along side Tribal councils in the same community, i.e., Saxman City Council is alongside the federally recognized I.R.A., the Organized Village of Saxman. Each would provide its own service(s) to its members. Individuals may serve on both councils. In some cases, such as in Metlakatla, the Council is both the Tribe and the City Council.

Service Providers

These nonprofit development and service corporations provide services involving realty, housing, health and social programs resulting from the Indian Self-determination and Education Assistance Act of 1974 (P.L. 94-638). These service providers are often referred to as "638 contractors or compactors" with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Some Tribes have united within their region to control and perform different functions. Tribal Councils.

Tribal Governments

Each community may have a federally recognized Tribe. The United States has a government-to-government relationship with the Alaska Natives who are represented by either Traditional Councils or I.R.A. (Indian Reorganization Act) Councils (authorized by a 1936 amendment of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934). Tribes have limited sovereign immunity from suit.

Traditional Councils have inherent governmental authority to control social behavior and programs, administer justice, etc.

I.R.A. Councils also have inherent governmental authority to control social behavior and programs, administer justice, etc. In addition, they have the authority to protect Tribal lands, employ legal counsel, and negotiate with the Federal, State, and local governments. A village organized under section 16 of the Act is recognized as an I.R.A. government; it could also be granted an I.R.A. business charter under section 17 of the Indian Reorganization Act.

The Tlingit and Haida Central Council is a Federally Recognized Tribal Government and provides a large portion of the governmental services to Indians in southeast Alaska. It is also recognized as one of the Southeastern Alaska Indian Tribes. This is unlike the other non-profit Native associations that are recognized only as Native organizations. The Tlingit and Haida Central Council has community presidents, who are separate from Tribal Council offices.

See the Regional Key Contact List for current lists of most of these organizations.

